

# MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2025

Held in person and remotely via Zoom

Decision/Consensus/Assignment items are set out in bold.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO REVIEW THESE MINUTES CAREFULLY FOR ASSIGNMENT AND ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THEM

The meeting of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC) of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) convened at 5:30 p.m. on February 20, 2025, at the MPRB Headquarters, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Co-Chair Giuseppe Marrari (District 2), Drew Peterson (District 1), Karl Kussow (District 3), Mary Bolla (District 4), Co-Chair Tim Keane (District 5), Barb Schlaefer (District 6), Erika Commers (At Large), Steve Nicholson (MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee), Don Willeke (Mayor's Representative), Katie Cashman (City Council, Ward 7), Meg Forney (MPRB Commissioner), Peter MacDonagh (U of M Liaison), Craig Pirkalla, Jeremy Barrick, Sydney Schaaf (Mpls Health Department City Trees Program Manager).

Guests in attendance: Danielle Schurmer (MPRB) Philip Potyondy (Sustainability Coordinator), Mitchel Hansen (Harrison neighborhood), Shakin Khalili, Health Department Forester, Jeremy Barrick (MPRB), Noah (Tree Trust), Jim Doten.

### CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES

Co-Chair Marrari called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. **The MTAC meeting minutes for January 16, 2025, were approved as submitted.**

### INTRODUCTION AND APPOINTMENTS

Co-Chair Marrari went around the meeting with introductions of all in attendance. Marrari solicited volunteers.

Co-Chair to serve as secretary. Keane volunteered to assist preparation of February meeting minutes with Co-Chair Marrari.

### MPRB FORESTRY UPDATE

Jeremy Barrick provided an update on the selection of Chris McMaster for MPRB forester position starting February 24.

- Craig Pirkalla – tree lot tour April 17
- **ACTION:** Will bring up at the next meeting (March 20)
  - Expect director to attend March 20 meeting
  - Forestry purchased \$864,000 of trees for 2025 planting season
    - \$96,000 from Green Cities
    - \$100,000 from Cargill
    - \$100,000 from MN DNR

### City Trees Update: Shakin Khalili

- Working with eight schools to encourage tree plantings at schools

### Biochar presentation: James Doten

- Program Manager since 2022, Minneapolis

- Technical presentation carbon sequestration
- Biochar – a carbon negative approach
- Municipal biochar
- Goal – biochar production facility – August 2025
- North America biochar conference – September 15-18, 2025

### **TREE CARE PROFESSIONAL**

Role of tree care professional and private trees

### **2025-26 MTAC GOAL DISCUSSION**

- 2:1 tree replacement
- Working with Health Department
- Marrari to pare down goals

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Reminder:

- MN Shad Tree Short Course in March
- Willeke noted watering more of an issue

The MTAC Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Chair Marriari concluded meeting to adjourn March 20, 2025.

Respectfully submitted: Tim Keane and Giuseppe Marrari – MTAC Co-Chairs